

HIGH STREET

HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

Additional Funding Request Form:

Name of HSHAZ:

HSHAZ No.:

Date: 04/05/22

Lead Partner responsible for spend of additional grant: The Friends of Spode Rose Garden group

150 word description of the proposed project including 1 line title:

Paved Patterns – a project to pave the way for the Future of the Community Garden.



Image: Left Spode Rose Garden opening, September 2016 and right Spode Rose Garden Blue Italina Border at RHS Tatton (where the group were awarded a Silver Gilt Medal.)

The Spode Rose Garden is a wonderful example of people led change. Through a creative action project, which began in 2013 a derelict garden in the centre of Stoke Town was transformed in 2016, into what is now a well loved and well used Community Garden and pocket park.

combination of Local Staffordshire Blue Bricks, and Sandstone Paving, and handmade bricks and tiles made with the people of the Town to deliver a really wonderful flooring solution for the garden, that would really provide the WOW factor for this beautiful space, tying the beautiful planting and artwork features of the garden together with a game changing visual impact, and creating a trail within the garden for families to enjoy, which tells the story of Spode's wares, how they would be made on site before being shipped out to the world via the canal, that used to run through the garden.

In our recent community consultation, people told us how much they love the garden, but again and again it was mentioned that it is a great shame about the floor, which visually lets the space down and is also in places a hazard. This project is an opportunity for people to contribute to changing that, increasing the local sense of ownership of the garden.

Our Friends of Group would lead a series of Community Workshops in the Garden, to first dig some clay from our front edible border, and then to run workshops in Brick and tile Making, something which we have been able to do in another area of the city in 2021, where Friends Members (and artists) Anna Francis and Jo Mills collaborated with Artist Sarah Fraser to work with the Community of Portland St on a project to design and make Fern Bricks (which was launched at British Ceramics Biennial 2021).



Images Above: Recent project to make Fern Bricks with the Community of Portland St. Hanley (where formerly a Brickworks had been, based on a Watsonian Fern Brick that was manufactured for just 2 years in the 1800s) and below The Fern Bricks launch at British Ceramics Biennial, 2021, to give an idea of the sort of physical development features we have experience of delivering.

Within these public workshops, people would be invited to learn new skills in first reclaiming clay and then creating decorative bricks and tiles to add to edge and feature areas of the gardens flooring, as well as creating a series of circular 'plates' using multi-

coloured clays to create tile features based on Spode Heritage Floral and Plant Patterns, to be inlaid within sections of the gardens floor.



Above: Proposal Image showing a sketch of how the decorative tiles, and handmade bricks would look installed within the new flooring solution, made by the Community and laid by Staffordshire Brickwork Specialists.

We would then work together to build a kiln on site as a temporary public artwork based on Spode Bottle Ovens, of which there is now just a footing remaining of one of the historic bottle ovens, where we fire the wares we have made as a celebratory community event. Staffordshire Brickwork would then work with us to install our handmade bricks and tiles, within the combination of local reclaim Staffordshire Blue Bricks, and Slate Grey Sandstone Paving to deliver this special heritage floor for the garden.



End section of the garden, where we would extend the planting and create flint and reclaimed kiln furniture paths, as hard standing would not work here due to the willow tree's roots which are currently pushing up the concrete. And image of the cracked pavement.

The section of flooring to be developed is approximately 350 meters squared and would first have to see the damaged concrete broken up and excavated, before being replaced. In order to look after the health of the willow tree, whose roots are currently pushing up the concrete slabs towards the end of the garden, we would look to extend the shade loving plants area of the garden, creating more of a sense of winding paths to follow (something which we note children always love to explore when in the garden), and through the

planting area extension to be able to create a native shade lovers section of planting, and create a trail of patterns under the willow tree, which then leads onto the long section of gravel to the north length of the garden. This is the section where the canal once flowed, where Spode Wares would have been then shipped out to the world from. We will put out an open call for an artist to work with us on a World Canal Trail: to work with The Spode Museum Trust's collection of blue and white historic wares reflecting Spode's connections out to the world and to engage the community, via a series of hands on workshops to create a set of tiled steppingstones, and features for the children to interact with running the length of that section, and marking the site of the canal, within our community workshop programme. This artwork would illustrate the countries that Spode shipped to via the canal, and would visually reference Spode Heritage Patterns, as is the case throughout the garden.

Proposal Images to demonstrate how the design would look, including extended Willow Planting Shade lover's area, and Paving and Brickwork throughout.



Above: Bird's Eye View of the garden showing extended planting area underneath willow and paving solution overview.



Above: Images showing extended planting area design with flint paths (dark grey) and white reclaimed kiln prop path (light grey) and the transition between the paths and planting area, and the newly laid Sandstone paving. White edge is a replaced edging stone which would need to be completed throughout, as much of existing edging stone is damaged or missing.



Above: sketch view showing transitions between sandstone paving and Staffordshire Blue Brick areas, plus details of Handmade Round heritage pattern tiles and handmade bricks to be made within community workshops.



Above: Detailed view of Paving, Staffordshire blue brick section and handmade tile and bricks inlaid into floor.

Does the proposal relate to a new project or additional funds for an existing approved project?

New Project

New / Additional

New

What is the maximum duration of the proposed project?

(months)

8

Is there a time-limited start or end date? (If yes, why?)

TBC

Amount of Additional Grant applied for:

£80,000

How have these costs been determined?

We requested tenders from a number of local contractors, due to the bespoke nature of the collaborative approach the Friends of Group felt that Staffordshire Brickworks was the most reasonable, and amenable to the community involvement nature of the work. The contractor Staffordshire Brickwork has worked with the Volunteers at the rose garden to develop a flooring solution that can be viewed as a collaboratively made public artwork.

Coordinator fee and artists fees calculated using the A-N Fees calculator.

Materials budgets costed via google search and advice from artist specialists (no single capital item greater than £100)

Outline breakdown of tasks and timetable to show how the project will be delivered within the identified timeframe, (Please include key points such as the appointment of contractors and completion of work on site).

Timetable:

July 2022 –Appoint coordinator. Contractor works with Friends of Group to excavate the concrete, extend the planting area under the willow to create a more discernible set of paths and trails referencing native shade lovers and install new heritage flooring, with temporary space holders for where our tiles and bricks will go. Open call goes out for World Canal Trail artwork (working title).

August 2022 – Fortnightly Making sessions begin in the garden creating tiles and bricks with the Friends of Group, and supported by ceramic artists from British Ceramics Biennial and other local makers and artists. Appoint World Canal Trail artist.

September 2022 –World Canal Trail artist workshops get underway. Fortnightly Making sessions continue in the garden creating tiles and bricks.

October 2022 - World Canal Trail artist workshops complete and install. Fortnightly Making sessions continue in the garden creating tiles and bricks.

November 2022 – Build a kiln in the garden, public celebration event for firing the kiln and linking to the firings of the kilns of Spode.

December 2022 – install tiles and brickworks in the garden.

January 2023 – evaluation is written up and submitted.

March 2023 – Spring event launch and celebration of new artworks and trail in the garden, talks about Spode's patterns and worldwide connections, hands one demos and general celebration of the project.

Highlight any significant risks that could prevent this project being delivered on time and/or to budget

It depends how quickly we can get the go ahead, and the funds in place. If this is a slow process we may struggle, as the contractor has said ideally the groundworks should take place in the summer months, due to the nature of the work.

We can deliver this fairly quickly and with social distancing in place. We have already met with partners who are all on board and ready to go.

Which additional outputs will this additional project deliver? (please list) <i>(Suggest drop downs from the Scheme Plan)</i> 1 x public impactful public artwork and public realm improvement project. 1 X public artwork trail delivered via open call 4 X gardening development days 10 X ceramics workshop events 1 X kiln building workshop event and celebration 1 x final celebration event	
Which partner organisations (if any?) will support delivery The Friends of Spode Rose Garden AirSpace Gallery	
Have these partner organisations been consulted on the proposals and confirmed that they are happy to participate? (Please append evidence, e.g. letter of support)	Yes/No YES
<i>Internal staff to complete</i> Has this additional grant aided project been authorised by the SRO/RD	Yes/No